

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST L.D. 43

"An Act To Ban the Use of Nondegradable Hooks for Fishing"

SPONSORED BY: Representative PAUL DAVIS of Sangerville

DATE OF HEARING: February 5, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Michael Brown, Fisheries Division Director at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking neither for nor against **L.D. 43**.

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife supports the intent of this bill.

The Department is not aware of types of hooks that are used more frequently than others by anglers. There are several hook types not addressed in this bill that may or may not be biodegradable which include chemically coated and plated hooks. Additionally I have no information to determine how many of these hooks are lost or intentionally cut while fishing. I am not aware of an industry standard for biodegradable hooks or a definition of biodegradable hooks.

At this time the Department's Warden Service will not be able to distinguish between the types of materials used in the construction of a particular fishing hook so attempts to enforce this law if passed would be extremely difficult. The materials to construct fishing hooks may be completely or partially made from biodegradable materials.

Currently, consumers do not have adequate information necessary to make informed purchases when they select fishing tackle at a conventional store or on-line. Often the materials that comprise the makeup or construction of fishing tackle are not listed on the packaging.

Due to the limited information provided in this bill and a lack of knowledge regarding the number of hooks that are lost or intentionally cut while fishing my comments are limited.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time.